

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [020] with the following amended paragraph:

[020] The present invention will be herein described with reference to FIGS. 1-3. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the present invention is a vapor inhaler 10, including a vapor-concentrating lid 12, an effervescent composition [[14]], and a reservoir 16. The vapor-concentrating lid 12 is removably engagable to the top of the reservoir 16.

Please replace paragraph [021] with the following amended paragraph:

[021] As illustrated in FIG. 2, the vapor-concentrating lid 12 includes a central cover portion 18, a rim engaging portion 20, a shaped wall 22, and a central depressed area 24. The central depressed area 24 further includes one or more vents 26 therein. The shaped wall 22 may further include a shaped depression 28. The wall 22 may be several shapes, such as frusto-conical or dome shaped. The combination of the central depressed area 24 and the shaped depression 28 preferably form an ergonomic shape which allows the user to place his or her nose in close contact with the one or more vents 26, but also protects a majority of the user's face, including his or her eyes, mouth, and skin, from direct exposure to the vapor as it escapes from the one or more vents 26 (as further described below). The vapor-concentrating lid 12 is of a size such that the combination of the central depressed area 24 and the shaped depression 28 conforms approximately to the size and shape of the user's facial structure around the nose, hereinafter referred to as the nasal area. Various shaped vapor-condensing lids 12 are shown in FIGS. 2-3 [[2-5]].

Please replace paragraph [029] with the following amended paragraph:

[029] The effervescent composition [[14]] provides the positive pressure to the humidified air by bubbling released effervescent gases through the hot water in the reservoir 16.

Effervescent compositions are commonly used in products as diverse as antacids and denture

cleaners and any such system may be utilized effectively in the present invention. Ideally, the effervescent composition [[14]] would also contain decongesting fragrance materials such as camphor and menthol. The fragrance is preferably perceptible by olfaction for at least about 10 minutes after being placed in water having a temperature of at least about 100° F. A general example of possible specifications for the effervescent composition [[14]] is given below.

Please replace paragraph [031] with the following amended paragraph:

[031] One effervescent composition [[14]] was made from the following formula using common mixing equipment and techniques.

Please replace paragraph [033] with the following amended paragraph:

[033] An effervescent composition [[14]] according to Table 3 was blended and then made into tablets of about 3.30g to about 3.65g each. The tableting is preferably done at lower humidity levels. For example, at 70° F, the relative humidity is preferably below 20% and more preferably is below 15%. The tablets formed had a green and white mottled/speckled appearance, a diameter of approximately .833 inches, and a thickness less than about .290 inches. The tablets are pressed using conventional tableting techniques, and are preferably pressed to an initial hardness of between about 7 to about 10 kiloponds. After 24 hours the tablets will reach a relatively stable hardness of 18 to 25 kiloponds using a Schleuniger 6D hardness tester or equivalent. The tablet of the effervescent composition [[14]] according to Table 3 takes between about 30 and about 150 seconds to dissolve, averaging about 100 seconds, when placed in 125 mL of water at 100° F and between about 30 and about 80 seconds, averaging about 50 seconds, to dissolve when placed in 125 mL of water at 140° F. After 48 hours or more after tableting the tablets will have a friability less than about 2% using a Vankel friabilator or equivalent.

Please replace paragraph [034] with the following amended paragraph:

[034] A second effervescent composition [[14]] was made from the following formula using common mixing equipment and techniques.

TABLE 4

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Wt%</u>
Citric Acid.....	58%
Sodium Bicarbonate.....	33%
Sodium Carbonate.....	3%
Aminoacetic acid	2%
Flavor	2%
Menthol.....	1%
Eucalyptus Oil.....	0.5%
Camphor.....	0.3%
Excipients.....	.2

This effervescent composition [[14]] according to Table 4 was adapted from: Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms: Tablets, Volume I, Lieberman HA, Lachman L, Schwartz JB, Eds, Marcel Dekker, Inc, New York, 1989. The effervescent composition [[14]] was then compacted into tablets weighing approximately three grams each. The tablets were also found to work effectively for the desired purpose.

Please replace paragraph [035] with the following amended paragraph:

[035] The examples of the effervescent compositions [[14]] may also be used in powder or other forms. Other forms would have different characteristics from a tablet that might be advantageous in some circumstances. Such as, for example, adhering the composition to a water soluble backing.

Please replace paragraph [036] with the following amended paragraph:

[036] In use, the reservoir 16 is filled with hot water of a pre-determined temperature. Preferably the water temperature will be approximately 80 °F to 200 °F, and more preferably from 90 °F to 110 °F. The air repository 44 takes up the space of the reservoir 16 not occupied by the water repository 42. The vapor-concentrating lid 12 is securely fitted to the reservoir 16 by engagement of the rim engaging portion 20 over the lip 34 of the reservoir 16. The vapor-concentrating lid 12 should be secured to the reservoir 16 such that the vapor-condensing lid 12 and the reservoir 16 form a substantially fluid impermeable barrier. The humidified vapor then begins collecting in the air repository 44 under the vapor-condensing lid 12. The effervescent composition [[14]], in either powder or tablet form, is then placed into the water through vents 26.

Please replace paragraph [037] with the following amended paragraph:

[037] As gases bubble through the water, positive pressure begins to build in the air repository 44. The positive pressure forces the humidified vapor out of the one or more vents 26. At this time, the user places his or her facial area in close contact with the vapor-condensing lid 12 such that the depressed area 24 and the shaped depression 28 loosely engage the nasal area of the user's face. The user then breathes the humidified vapor for a desired period of time or until the effervescent composition [[14]] stops forcing humidified vapor through the vents 26.

Please replace paragraph [038] with the following amended paragraph:

[038] As may be appreciated, the steps for utilizing the present invention can be carried out through a variety of different ways. For example, the effervescent composition [[14]] could be already present in the reservoir 16 and simply activated by the addition of water to the reservoir 16. The composition [[14]] could be adhered to the bottom of the reservoir 16 or applied as a film to the inner surface of the reservoir 16. Additionally, the composition [[14]] can be dropped

into the reservoir 16 before or after the vapor-condensing lid 12 is fitted onto the reservoir 16 and before or after the water is added thereto.

Please replace paragraph [039] with the following amended paragraph:

[039] In one specific example of the current invention, a common Dixie® PerfecTouch™ (Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products, Atlanta, GA) 12 ounce paper coffee cup is used as the reservoir 16. This cup meets the preferred characteristics described above in that it is about 12 centimeters tall, has a total volume of about 360 milliliters, weighs about 10 grams, has a top opening of about 9 centimeters, is easily filled, held and carried, and is sufficiently insulated to keep liquids hot for as long as an hour. The reservoir 16 is then filled with 125 milliliters of very hot tap water, with a temperature of about 122 °F. A vapor-concentrating lid 12 is placed thereon by gently pressing the vapor-condensing lid 12 against the top of the reservoir 16. The effervescent composition [[14]] of Table 4 was added and the humidified vapors were inhaled. Various parameters for the invention, before and after use, are listed below.

Please replace paragraph [042] with the following amended paragraph:

[042] In still further embodiments, the reservoir 16 and the vapor-concentrating lid 12 may be substantially one piece. In such an embodiment, the one piece reservoir 16 and the vapor-concentrating lid must have a closeable opening sufficient to fill the reservoir 16 with hot water and to also place the effervescent composition [[14]] therein. Alternatively, the effervescent composition [[14]] may be placed in the reservoir 16 prior to completely assembling the one-piece vapor inhaler 10.

Please replace paragraph [043] with the following amended paragraph:

[043] In still further embodiments, the combination of the vapor-condensing lid 12, reservoir 16, and composition [[14]] may be a one use system. In such a system, the effervescent

composition [[14]] may be already affixed to an interior of the reservoir 16 such that simply filling the reservoir 16 activates the effervescent action.

Please replace paragraph [044] with the following amended paragraph:

[044] As an alternative to effervescent compositions [[14]], or in addition to them, any composition or ingredient capable of generating an internal positive pressure within the reservoir may be used. For example, utilization of carbonated liquids to create a positive pressure in the reservoir 16 could be incorporated.